

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SPC-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SAJ-01

NIC-01 DRC-01 /090 W

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R 251552Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4927

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: STRAUSS ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY IN BAVARIAN ELECTIONS

REF: MUNICH 2102; 2151

1. FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS, IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN MARCH 23 "TZ", STATED HE WILL RUN FOR BAVARIAN LANDTAG IN ELECTIONS WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN SET FOR NOVEMBER 10. THOUGH HE COULD STILL CHANGE HIS MIND, STRAUSS'S STATEMENT ENDS FOR NOW UNCERTAINTY WHICH HAS SURROUNDED HIS INTENTIONS SINCE DECEMBER, WHEN HE INDICATED HE MIGHT PERHAPS RUN. STRAUSS INTENDS HEAD CSU LIST FOR UPPER BAVARIA, WHERE HANS JOCHEN VOGEL IS EXPECTED TO HEAD SPD LIST. STRAUSS STATED, HOWEVER, HE IS NO LONGER MAKING HIS CANDIDACY DEPENDENT ON VOGEL'S.

2. STRAUSS STATED IN INTERVIEW HE IS RUNNING BECAUSE HE THINKS HIS NAME WILL ATTRACT MORE VOTERS THAN ANY OTHER.

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WITH RECENT SPD DEFEATS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS ELSEWHERE, STRAUSS

PROBABLY SEES CHANCE TO INFLICT CRUSHING DEFEAT ON VOGEL IN NOVEMBER AND BELIEVES HIS CANDIDACY WILL HELP ENSURE THIS. HOWEVER, SQUABBLE WITH GOPPEL AND BAVARIAN CABINET OVER APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL PETZET TO CULTURE MINISTRY POSITION (AIRGRAM FOLLOWS) VERY LIKELY CONTRIBUTED TO STRAUSS DECISION. (WE WERE TOLD MARCH 18 BY CSU OFFICIAL, BEFORE PETZET AFFAIR BROKE, THAT STRAUSS HAD DEFINITELY DECIDED NOT TO RUN.) SEVERAL DAYS LATER CSU SECRETARY GENERAL TANDLER TOLD US IT THEN LOOKED AS IF STRAUSS PROBABLY WOULD RUN.

3. IN "TZ" INTERVIEW STRAUSS MADE CLEAR HE DOES NOT PLAN TO DISPLACE GOPPEL AS MINISTER-PRESIDENT IN NOVEMBER. HE STATED HE INTENDS TO REMAIN IN NATIONAL POLITICS UNTIL 1976, AND HOPEFULLY THEREAFTER. IMPLICATION IS THAT IF CDU/CSU DOES NOT WIN 1976 NATIONAL ELECTIONS, STRAUSS WILL MOVE INTO BAVARIAN POLITICS, AND THIS CANNOT BE VERY REASSURING TO GOPPEL.

4. WHILE STRAUSS'S NAME WILL CERTAINLY ADD TO CSU VOTER APPEAL, SHOULD HIS CANDIDACY CONTINUE TO CREATE VISIBLE FRICTIONS WITHIN CSU (REF TELS), THIS WILL DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM SPD'S INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES, AND STRAUSS'S CONTRIBUTION WILL BE LARGELY OFFSET. SPIVACK

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## Message Attributes

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